

State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game
Nomination for Waters
Important to Anadromous Fish

1986
Year of Revision

86-460

Anadromous Water Catalog Volume VI - INTERIOR

USGS Quad 98 RUBY A-3

Name of Waterway NOUITNA & SULLUKNA RIVERS

Anadromous Water Catalog Number of Waterway _____

334-40-11000-2300-7

Change to _____ Atlas

_____ Catalog

☒ Both

Addition ☒ COHO SALMON & EXTEND CHUM SALMON

Deletion ☒ (SHEEPSKIN & WHITEFISH)

Correction _____

Name addition: _____

USGS name _____

Local name _____

ALASKA DEPT. OF
FISH & GAME

OCT 2 1985

REGION II
HABITAT DIVISION

For Office Use

Nomination # _____	
<u>AP. HOTT</u> Regional Supervisor	<u>9-30-85</u> Date
_____	_____
Drafted	Date

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Migration
COHO SALMON	Sept. 1973 & 1975			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CHUM SALMON	Sept. 1972, 1973 & 1975			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments: Provide any clarifying information, including number of fish observed, location of fish survey data, etc.

TEST NETTING FOR SHEEPSKIN & WHITEFISH WITH VARIABLE MESH AND 5 1/2" MESH NETS AT VARIOUS TIMES IN SEPT. 1972, '73 & '75 & '84 TOOK SMALL NUMBERS OF ADULT SALMON. SEE 9-20-84 MEMORANDUM FROM INC TO OTT FOR FURTHER DETAILS (ATTACHED)

Attach a copy of a map showing location of mouth and upper points of each species, specific stream reaches identified for spawning or rearing, locations of barriers, such as falls. Attach a copy of the fish survey data, if available.

Name of Observer (please print) _____

Date: 9-30-85 Signature: Kenneth T. Alt

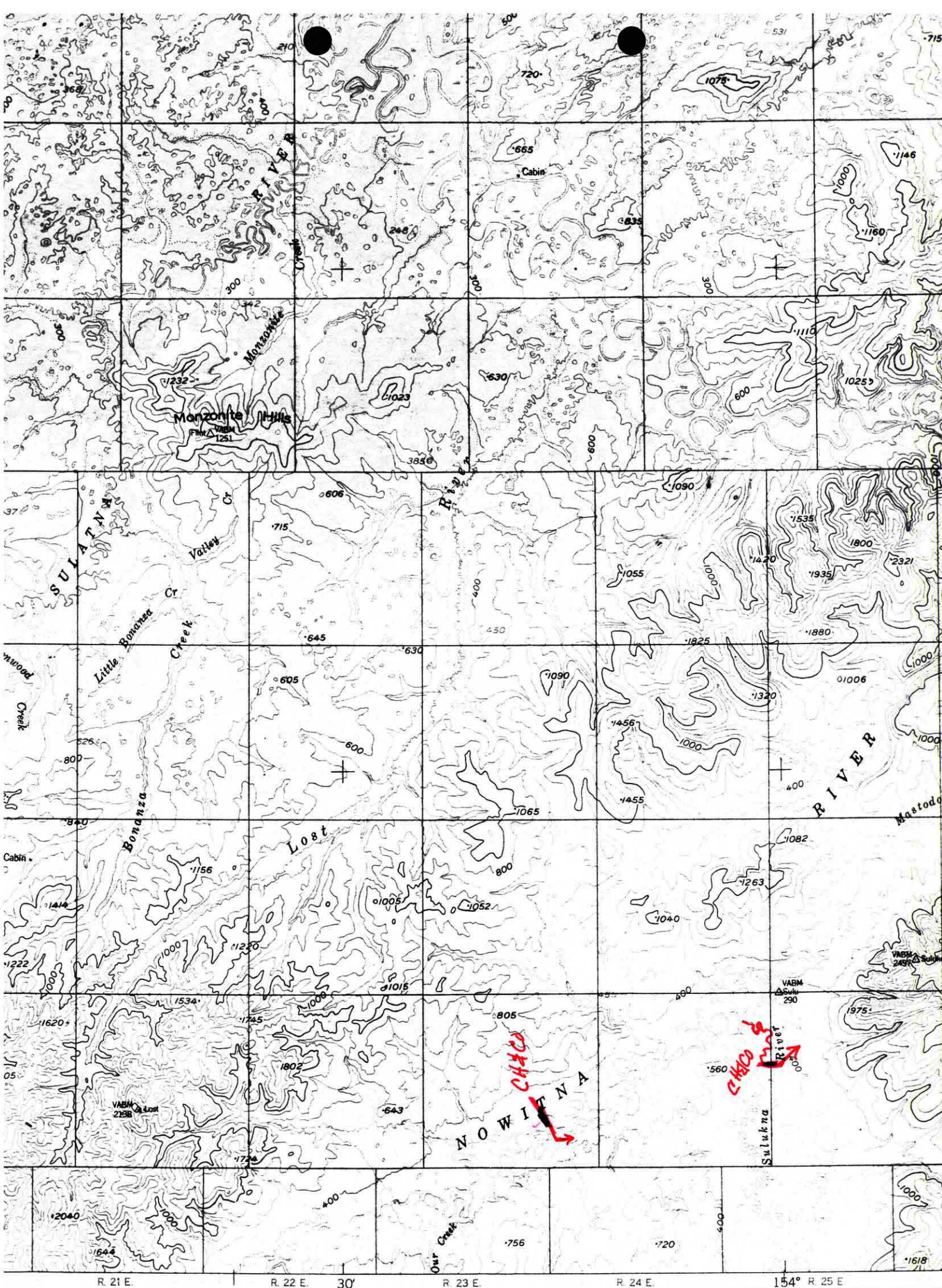
Address: _____

1300 College Rd

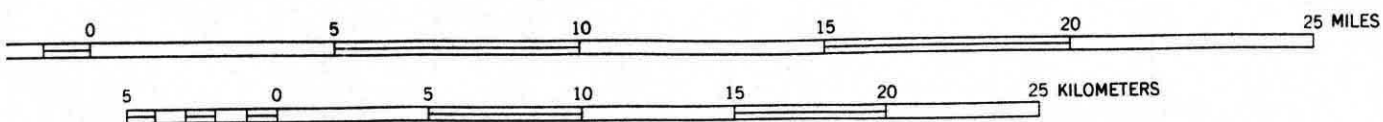
Fairbanks AK 99701

Signature of Area Biologist: _____

Kenneth T. Alt



SCALE 1:250 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 100-FOOT CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

1957 MAGNETIC DECLINATION AT SOUTH EDGE OF SHEET VARIES FROM 23°30' TO 25°30' EAST

THIS MAP IS AVAILABLE IN BOTH SHADED RELIEF AND CONTOUR EDITIONS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, 99701, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO Al Ott, Reg. Supvr.
Habitat Division
Dept. of Fish and Game, Fairbanks

DATE September 20, 1984

FILE NO 508

TELEPHONE NO 456-8819

FROM ^{KA} Ken Alt, Fishery Biologist
Sport Fish Division
Dept. of Fish and Game, Fairbanks

SUBJECT Fish/Mining-Nowitna
River System

While conducting sheefish spawning ground research in the upper Nowitna River from September 7 thru September 14, 1984, I made the following observations regarding anadromous fish/mining.

Sulatna River: This tributary of the Nowitna enters approximately 70 miles from the mouth. It is a slow moving, meandering stream about 100' wide in the lower reaches. Water is normally dark stained. Most of the mining operations in the Long Creek-Ruby-Poorman area dump into the Sulatna. This September the Sulatna was very dirty from mining effluent and in fact made the lower Nowitna considerably more turbid than I have observed in the last 18 years at this water level. Two gill nets set overnite in the lower five miles of the Sulatna took 7 prespawning broad whitefish, 2 prespawning humpback whitefish and 17 northern pike. I consider the whitefish here to be non-anadromous. Unless a few summer chum salmon ascend the Sulatna, it is probably not used by anadromous fish.

Sulukna River: This is a Clearwater tributary entering the Nowitna River about 160 miles upstream. It is considerably clearer than the upper Nowitna and a partial gravel bottom appears close to the mouth. The stream meanders considerably, is 80 to 100' wide with water depths ranging from 6" to 8'. This stream serves as the only spawning ground for the local (non-anadromous) population of sheefish in the Nowitna River. Probable spawning grounds were located in the area 30-38 miles up the Sulukna River. Additionally, humpback whitefish, round whitefish and least cisco spawn in the system. Although two broad whitefish were captured, they were non-spawners and I believe that all broad whitefish in the upper Nowitna spawn in the main river or the Susulatna Fork.

During 5 net nites of fishing in the Sulukna River, 25 sheefish, 2 broad whitefish, 16 humpback whitefish, 1 round whitefish, 1 least cisco and 13 northern pike were taken. I expected coho salmon, but none were captured.

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* Mainstem Nowitna River: I observed salmon carcasses in the main Nowitna River across from Big Mud River. There were fewer this year than I observed in 1973. I netted for one nite below Sulukna River and above the Titna River canyon. Only pike, sheefish and whitefish were taken. However, salmon do spawn in the upper Nowitna River above the mouth of the Sulukna as I captured small numbers of fall spawning chums as well as coho salmon during previous sheefish research in 1973 and 1975 during the period August 31 thru September 10.

Sulukna - 1
SS (S) captured 1/2 mile upstream of Sulukna mouth

Summary: Probably only the mainstem Nowitna River, upstream at least as far as 20 miles above the mouth of the Sulukna River, is used by anadromous salmon. All sheefish and whitefish in the system could be considered local. The Titna River was not muddy. Even though the Sulatna was muddying the lower Nowitna, sport fishermen were not thwarted in their efforts to angle for northern pike and sheefish.

No further work other than monitoring sport fisheries in the lower river is planned for this system.

cc John Clark
Ron Regnart
Louie Barton
Scott Grundy